

I heard about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election on CBS radio news. I also heard Sinclair has fired an employee for speaking out about this example of what can happen in our country when we allow media consolidation.

Sinclair Broadcasting pays nothing to use the public airwaves, and they are obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, when media organizations are allowed to grow and get stronger, large companies begin to control the airwaves, and it becomes more likely that they will broadcast what is good for their bottom line and good for their political cronies, and less balanced and fair reporting. The health of our democracy depends heavily on the fairness of our media. If our fourth estate is allowed to broadcast partisan political statements as "news," then the Federal Communications Commission has failed in its mandated role to protect our nation's airwaves.

Sinclair Broadcasting's actions demonstrate why media ownership rules must be strengthened, not weakened. I believe license renewal for broadcasters should depend on a commitment to depict both sides of issues. Thank you.